**OCS Essentials English I/II**

**Fall 2010**

**Ms. Fetbroth**

Dear Parents, Guardians and Families, August 25, 2010

It is my pleasure to welcome your student to OCS Essentials of English at Northern Vance High School! My name is Ms. Fetbroth and I am lucky enough to have your child in my class this semester.

This semester is designed to strengthen students’ reading and writing skills and prepare them to take English I in the spring. In English 1, students will take the 10th grade-writing test in March and the English I EOC in June. In order to prepare for these tests and make sure students are where they need to be, we are going to be working extremely hard over the next few months to achieve our class’ big goal for the semester: **To be thoughtful readers, strong writers, and critical thinkers**.

As a class, we will be learning and practicing with different comprehension strategies, reading and discussing different novels, and working to create an environment where everyone student feels comfortable learning. Individually, each student is expected to be reading independently both in class and outside of school. Research has shown that the best way for struggling readers to improve is to be given a lot of time to just read. I have a library in my classroom with books for students of all reading levels. Students are allowed (and encouraged!) to bring books home to read. I will also be running a Reading Club after school on Mondays and Wednesdays where students can come to read and discuss books they are working on. Please encourage your student to stay after school on these days and to bring books home with them to read on their own. The more our students read, the stronger readers they will become and the more successful they will be.

While I will do everything in my power to make sure you student meets his or her goals, I can’t do it without your help. **Nothing is more important to me than having you be involved in your student’s education**! I will be contacting you often to talk about how your student is doing, and really hope that you will contact me whenever you have any questions or suggestions for how I can better help your student. You can call me, email me, or set up a meeting with me at any time.

**Contacting Me**:

School Number: (252) 492-6041 x 323 Hours: 7:00am-5:00pm

Cell Number: (781) 696-8402 Hours: 6:00am-10:00pm

Email: jfetbroth@vcs.k12.nc.us Anytime

You can also access our class wiki at **http://nvhsenglishfetbroth.wikispaces.com/** to see what we are working on in class and what homework your student has been assigned. Please encourage your student to check the wiki daily for important updates and assignments!

I will also be available for students to meet with me every day before school from 6:45-7:30 AM, after school Monday and Wednesday from 3:15-4:30, and by appointment.

**Grading Policies**

Grades for the course will be broken down in the following way:

**50% - Tests**

**40% - Class work (participation, in-class assignments, quizzes)**

**10% - Homework**

Students will receive a progress report every 3 weeks, which will let them know their current class average, the number of absences they have, and if they are missing any assignments. Students have ONE WEEK to make up any missing assignments.

**Absences:** Students cannot have more than 8 classes, or they will automatically fail for the semester. If your student does need to miss class for any reason, he or she can make up both the absence and the work missed before or after school with me.

**Classroom Policies:**

**CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONICS:** Students are not allowed to have electronic devices in the classroom, as stated in the Northern Vance student/parent handbook. This includes cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, and anything else that requires battery power.

**USING THE SCHOOL PHONE:** Students are only allowed to use the phone in my classroom before or after school.

**FOOD OR DRINK:** Students are not allowed to bring food or drink (other than water) into the classroom.

**DRESS CODE:** All students must dress according to Northern Vance’s official dress code policy. If you aren’t sure what is or is not allowed, please contact me with any questions or refer to the handbook. There will be NO hats, do-rags, sunglasses, revealing or offensive clothing worn in my classroom.

**Classroom Rules:**

There are five very simple rules in my classroom.

**1. Stay in your seat.**

**2. Watch your language.**

**3. Raise your hand and wait to be called on.**

**4. Stay awake for learning’s sake.**

**5. Always do your best work.**

To help me get this semester started right, I would really appreciate it if you would please fill out the attached Parent/Guardian Survey and send it back to school with your child by **Monday, August 30, 2010**. I will be contacting you by phone in the next week to introduce myself and to talk about your child and the upcoming semester. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me before then.

I can’t tell you how excited I am to begin this semester and see your child succeed! Thank you so much for your time and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jesse Fetbroth

OCS English Teacher

Northern Vance High School